

Board of Supervisors of Elections
Minutes | October 20, 2020 | Virtual Meeting

Marc Mitchell, Board President, called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Present: Marc Mitchell, President

Josh Russin, Board Member

Shuan Butcher, Board Member

Saundra Nickols, City Attorney

Phyllis Hane, Legislative Clerk

Mayor Michael O'Connor

1. On a motion made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Russin, the Board approved 3-0 the minutes of the February 21, 2020 meeting.
2. Mayor O'Connor addressed the Board and welcomed Mr. Butcher, who was recently appointed, to the Board. The Mayor asked the Board to begin considering what form the 2021 election might take, considering the ongoing pandemic and newly implemented procedures at the state level. He noted the state has adopted a hybrid approach for the 2020 presidential election, incorporating extensive mail-in voting along with limited in-person voting sites. He suggested the City should have a plan in place in the event the public health situation has not changed substantially by the time of the 2021 municipal election. He also noted Rockville held a mail-in election in 2019 and, while the cost was considerably higher, there was a significant increase in voter participation.

Areas identified for consideration and further discussion include geographic location of ballot drop boxes, possible expansion of early voting, accessibility for residents of all areas of the City, and the timeline for decision making. It was agreed a general plan should be in place by early Spring of 2021. Staff will reach out to the Frederick County Board of Elections to plan a meeting for early December to determine what lessons have been learned from the Presidential election and begin developing a plan for the 2021 municipal election.

3. The Board briefly reviewed the 2017 timeline and discussed possible revisions to those items not established by City Code, most notably the opening of candidate filing. A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Russin to maintain the proposed filing date of January 4, 2021. The motion was approved 3-0.
4. There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Hane

Legislative Clerk